

DEPARTMENT OF STATE MEMO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
— ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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TO THE SECRETARY

THREE S/S ✓

FROM: SIR - Foy D. Kohler

SUBJECT: This Afternoon's Meeting with the British, French and German Ambassadors

1. The main purpose of this meeting will be to convey to the British, French, and German Ambassadors, for transmission to their Governments, the American decisions on Germany and Berlin which have emerged from Wednesday's NSC meeting.

2. You may wish to begin by noting that personal messages from the President have gone forward to President de Gaulle, the Minister Lacoste and Chancellor Adenauer containing in a general sense the proposed United States program for strengthening the Allied position on Berlin. The package of papers which we will give to the three Ambassadors this afternoon will spell out in more detail the American decisions and policies to our Allies. We hope that they will receive the urgent and serious attention of the three Governments.

3. You might wish to point out that, in the period of intensive consultation now beginning, we would hope for a minimum of leaks and speculative stories based upon briefings of the press by officials.

L. You may at this point wish to review briefly the high-lights of the American proposals, drawn on the "Memorandum on Measures for Dealing With the Berlin Situation" which is the cover paper for the package to be given the Ambassadors. It contains a general formulation of the philosophy underlying the United States approach to the Berlin problem, drawn to some extent from your paper entitled "Outline on Germany and Berlin" and also sets forth the specifics of the United States proposals in more detail. Contained in the messages to the three Heads of Governments. Attached are detailed papers on: (a) The Military Program; (b) The Use of Economic Countermeasures in the Berlin Crisis; and (c) Information Program in Support of Berlin Policy.

Rev. 5. You might wish to inform the Ambassadors that we have today instructed our Ambassadors at all NAMO capitals, other than Paris, London, and Moscow, to see the various Foreign Ministers and to convey to them the general line of American decisions and proposals. These instructions are substantially:

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along the lines of the contents of the three messages to Heads of Governments but will not at this stage go into the sort of detail contained in the memorandum and attachments we are giving the Ambassadors at the present meeting. Ambassador Finletter will at the meeting on Monday of the North Atlantic Council make a presentation along the same general lines as those contained in the messages to the three Heads of Governments. The details will, however, only be given to NATO after the initial process of quadripartite consultation has been completed.

6. You may wish also to refer to the fact that Mr. Kohler will be heading the American Delegation to the meeting of Senior officials from German, French, and British Foreign Offices which we anticipate will begin in Paris next Friday. This series of meetings, which will be on an intensive basis, will be preparatory to the meetings of the Foreign Ministers to follow.

7. It may be desirable to agree with the Ambassadors on some common line regarding this afternoon's meeting. You might wish to suggest that queries be answered by the statement that this meeting represents part of the continuing process of consultation on the Berlin question. As President Kennedy indicated at his press conference on Wednesday, the United States Government has concluded its review of actions we might take towards strengthening the military position of the United States, and the present meeting was intended to convey to our Allies these decisions. However, no comment as to the substantive nature of these decisions should be made, since the President has indicated that he will include them as part of the speech which he will make to the country next Tuesday.

NOTE: In order to assist the Ambassadors in getting the package of documents we are distributing this afternoon to their capitals as rapidly as possible, Secretary McNamara will take with him a set of papers for delivery to Ambassador Gavin and transmission to the French authorities in Paris; Ambassador Gruen will himself carry the German set to Bonn tomorrow; and the British have a courier who will leave Washington tomorrow directly for London.

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